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10/723,824	11/26/2003	James P. Griesmer	MSFT-2789/303543.1	9275
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WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)			LEE, JINHEE J	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,824	GRIESMER, JAMES P.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jinhee J. Lee	2175	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/1/08.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-15, 17-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 5,11,12,17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaidyanathan et al. (6467081) in view of Gasser(6636250).

Re claim 1, Vaidyanathan et al. substantially discloses a method for indicating the values of variables in a program under development, the method comprising:

detecting the position of a pointer on the computer display associated with an expression in a listing of the program under development (see column 2 lines 57-60 according to the numbering in the middle and abstract for example);

reading and evaluating the expression in the listing (parser and interpreter, see column 6 lines 10-16 for example);

displaying a first item value in a first item window on the computer display (324 for example), wherein the item value is associated with a variable in the expression, wherein an expansion widget indicator of at least one sub-item value (330 for example) associated with the variable is displayed along with the first item value in the first window; and

responding to a pointer request for a first sub-item value by displaying a first sub-item window on the computer display (see figure 3c for example) containing the first

sub-item value, wherein the first item value in the first item window is related to the first sub-item value in the first sub-item window, wherein the relationship between the first item value and the first sub-item value is a parent to child relationship (see figure 3c for example), wherein the first sub-item window is separate from the first item window on the computer display, and wherein the first item window and the first sub-item window are displayed simultaneously and overlay at least a portion of the listing of the program under development (see figure 3c for example).

Vaidyanathan et al. does not explicitly disclose wherein an expansion widget indicator of at least one sub-item value. However, Gasser teaches of using an expansion widget indicator for at least one sub-item value (see figure 2 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the expansion widget indicator of Gasser on the method of Vaidyanathan et al. in order to provide an indication of hierarchical relationship.

Re claim 2, note that Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a method, wherein, the first item value remains visible when the first sub-item value is displayed, the displayed first sub-item value being accommodated to fit within a limited screen size by the use of at least one scroll control present in the first sub-item window to accommodate fitting within a limited screen size (inherent, since the information would not show, if the item was not controlled to fit, see figure 3c for example).

Re claim 3, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a method, further comprising: responding to a pointer request for a second sub-item value by displaying a second sub-item window containing second sub-item values (see figure 3c for example).

Re claim 4, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a method, wherein the pointer request for a second sub-item value dismisses the first sub-item window before displaying the second sub-item window (see 3f for example).

Re claim 6, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a method, further comprising: displaying a menu of operations that can be conducted to alter one or more of format and value of a variable being viewed (see figure 3c for example).

Re claim 7, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a method, wherein the format of a variable being viewed comprises one of simple text, hexadecimal, binary, decimal, text, HTML, XML, and custom editor/viewer (see figure 3c for example).

Re claim 8, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a method of displaying related data sub-items corresponding to a cursor-selected object displayed on a computer screen, the method comprising:

determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the cursor-selected object on the computer screen (see column 2 lines 57-60 for example), wherein the cursor-selected object is an object in a listing of program code under development;

loading the cursor-selected object (see figure 3c for example);

evaluating the cursor-selected object to determine if the cursor-selected object: has a variable value (see column 6 lines 10-16 for example);

has related data sub-items (see figure 3c for example); and

if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items; assembling values for the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items

(see figure 3c for example); and

displaying on the computer screen the values of the cursor-selected object in a first display window, the display also including the lower-tier sub-items in a second display window, the first and second display windows displayed simultaneously and overlaying at least a portion of the listing of the program code under development, wherein the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items are related in a parent and child relationship (see figure 3c for example).

Vaidyanathan et al. does not explicitly disclose an expansion widget indicator of the related data sub-items. However, Gasser teaches of using an expansion widget indicator for related sub-items (see figure 2 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the expansion widget indicator of Gasser on the method of Vaidyanathan et al. in order to provide an indication of hierarchical relationship.

Re claim 9, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a method, wherein evaluating the cursor-selected object further comprises evaluating an expression associated with the cursor-selected object (see figure 3c and column 6 lines 10-16 for example).

Re claim 10, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a method, wherein displaying the values of the cursor-selected items and related sub-items further comprises displaying a variable associated with the cursor-selected object and values of the variables respectively (see figure 3c for example).

Re claim 13, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a system for displaying data tips related to a cursor-selected object displayed on a computer screen, the system comprising:

a computer screen to display a cursor-selected object and the data tips (see figure 3c for example);

a processor (inherent) for executing instructions corresponding to the method of:

determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the cursor-selected object on the computer screen (see column 2 lines 57-60 for example), wherein the cursor-selected object is an object in a listing of program code under development (see abstract for example);

loading and evaluating the cursor-selected object to determine if the cursor-selected object (see figure 3c and column 3 lines 10-16 for example):

has a variable value (see figure 3c for example);

has related data sub-items (see figure 3c for example); and

if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items;

assembling values for the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items; and

displaying the values of the cursor-selected object in the data tips using a first window located adjacent to the cursor selected object, displaying the related data sub-items in a second window, wherein the cursor selected object and the related data sub-items are related in a parent and child relationship, , and wherein the first window and the second window overlay at least a portion of the listing of the program code under development (see figure 3c for example).

Vaidyanathan et al. does not explicitly disclose the second window having an expansion widget indication of the lower-tier sub items if the lower-tier sub-items exist, wherein the expansion widget indication of the lower-tier sub-items is a symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub-items exist and can be selected for display in a third window simultaneously with the first and second window. However, Gasser teaches of using an expansion widget indication for sub items (see figure 2 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the expansion widget indication of Gasser on the system of Vaidyanathan et al. in order to provide an indication of hierarchical relationship.

Re claim 14, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a system, wherein evaluating the cursor-selected object further comprises evaluating an expression associated with the cursor-selected object (see figure 3c for example).

Re claim 15, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a system, wherein displaying the values of the cursor-selected object further comprises displaying a variable associated with the cursor-selected object and values of the variables respectively (see figure 3c for example).

Re claim 18, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a machine-readable storage medium having instructions therein, executable by a machine to perform a method comprising:
determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the cursor-selected object on the computer screen, wherein the cursor-selected object is an object in a listing of program code under development (see abstract and column 2 lines 57-60 for example);
loading the cursor-selected object (see column 6 lines 10-16 for example);

evaluating the cursor-selected object to determine if the cursor-selected object has a variable value(see figure 3c for example);
has related data sub-items (see figure 3c and column 6 lines 10-16 for example); and

if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items;
assembling values for the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items (see figure 3c for example), wherein the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items are related in a parent and child relationship; and
displaying on the computer screen the values of the cursor-selected object in a first display window, the display also including the lower-tier sub-items in a second display window, the first and second display windows displayed simultaneously and overlay at least a portion of the listing of the program code under development (see paragraph 0013 for example).

Vaidyanathan et al. does not explicitly disclose an expansion widget indicator of the related data sub-items. However, Gasser teaches of using an expansion widget indicator for related data sub-items (see figure 2 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the expansion widget indicator of Gasser on the method of Vaidyanathan et al. in order to provide an indication of hierarchical relationship.

Re claim 19, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a method, displaying a menu of operations to be performed on the first sub-item, the operations comprising editing a value of the first sub-item value (see figure 3c for example).

Re claim 20, Vaidyanathan et al. discloses a system, displaying a menu of operations to be performed on the lower-tier sub-items, the operations comprising editing a value of the first sub-item value (see figure 3c for example).

3. Claims 5,11,12,17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaidyanathan et al. in view of Gasser, and further in view of Microsoft Tiptoe Through (applicant provided NPL document, Microsoft, Tiptoe Through the ToolTips With our All-Encompassing ToolTip Programmer's Guide).

Re claims 5,11, 12 and 17, Vaidyanathan et al./Gasser substantially discloses the method and system as set forth in the above claims 1, 8, 8 and 13 respectively. Vaidyanathan et al./Gasser does not explicitly disclose that the first sub-item window and the second sub-item window are transparent and using symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub items exist and can be selected. However, Microsoft Tiptoe Through teaches of sub-item windows that are transparent and using symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub items exist and can be selected (see child data page 2 and page 15 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the transparent windows and symbols indicating lower-tier sub item of Microsoft Tiptoe through on the system/method of Vaidyanathan et al./Gasser in order to provide a display that gives indication of all that is available on screen.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 and 17-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinhee J. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-1977. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F at 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Bashore can be reached on 571-272-2100 ext. 75. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jinhee J Lee/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2175

jjl